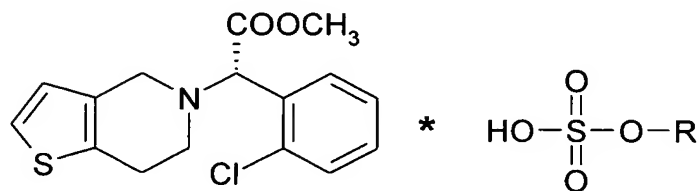


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A clopidogrel salt having the following formula (I)



wherein R is a straight or branched C₁-C₁₀ alkyl group.

2. (currently amended) [[A]] The clopidogrel salt as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is a straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl group.

3. (currently amended) [[A]] The clopidogrel salt as claimed in claim 1, which is:

clopidogrel-methyl sulfate; clopidogrel-ethyl sulfate;
clopidogrel-propyl sulfate; clopidogrel-isopropyl sulfate;
clopidogrel-butyl sulfate; clopidogrel-sec-butyl sulfate;
clopidogrel-isobutyl sulfate or clopidogrel-tert-butyl sulfate.

4. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a clopidogrel salt, as claimed in claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or carrier.

5. (currently amended) A process for the purification of clopidogrel or clopidogrel hemisulfate, comprising respectively:

a) ~~reaction of~~ reacting clopidogrel with concentrated sulfuric acid in a C₁-C₁₀ alkanol; or

b) ~~reaction of~~ reacting clopidogrel hemisulfate with a C₁-C₁₀ alkanol; or

c) salification of clopidogrel with an alkylsulfuric acid of formula

R-O-S(O)₃H, wherein R is as claimed in claim 1;

and conversion of the resulting clopidogrel C₁-C₁₀ alkyl sulfate salt to clopidogrel (base) and, ~~if desired~~ optionally, salification to clopidogrel hemisulfate.

6. (currently amended) ~~Highly pure~~ A clopidogrel and clopidogrel hemisulfate ~~as~~ having purity approximately equal to or higher than 99% and obtainable according to the purification process as claimed in claim 5.

7. (original) Crystalline form of a clopidogrel salt as claimed in claim 1.